AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A power transmission chain comprising:

a plurality of link plates individually including through-holes, having their side surfaces covered by a coating material capable of being readily abraded or separated by using the chain, and arranged as mutually overlapped in a thicknesswise direction thereof; ~~and~~

a plurality of pins inserted through the through-holes for flexibly interconnecting the plurality of link ~~plates,~~plates; and

~~wherein each of the link plates has side surfaces covered by a coating material having reduced contact surface pressure against an adjacent link plate to a proper level by abrading the contact surface through a test driving process of the chain after assembly of the link plates are mutually overlapped with a surface pressure higher than a proper surface pressure for the chain.~~

the coating material having a lubrication component.

4. (Previously Presented) A power transmission chain according to Claim 3, wherein the coating material comprises a stearate lubrication component.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a power transmission chain including:

a plurality of link plates individually including through-holes and arranged as mutually overlapped in a thicknesswise direction thereof on their side surfaces; and a plurality of pins inserted through the through-holes for flexibly interconnecting the plurality of link plates, the method comprising:

a coating step of coating the side surfaces of each of the plurality of link plates with a coating material capable of being readily abraded or separated by using the chain, the coating material having a lubrication component; ~~having reduced contact surface pressure against an~~

~~adjacent link plate to a proper level by abrading the contact surface through a test driving process of the chain after assembly of the link plates are mutually overlapped with a surface pressure higher than a proper surface pressure for the chain;~~

a pin lay-out step of laying out the plurality of pins at a predetermined pitch; and

an interconnection step of inserting the plurality of pins so arranged into the through-holes thereby sequentially interconnecting the link plates which are mutually overlapped on their side surfaces.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a power transmission chain including:

a plurality of link plates individually including through-holes and arranged as mutually overlapped in a thicknesswise direction thereof on their side surfaces; and a plurality of pins inserted through the through-holes for flexibly interconnecting the plurality of link plates, the method comprising:

a coating step of coating the side surfaces of each of the link plates with a stearate lubrication coating process to form a coating that is readily abraded or separated by using the chain;~~coating material having reduced contact surface pressure against an adjacent link plate to a proper level by abrading the contact surface through a test driving process of the chain after assembly of the link plates are mutually overlapped with a surface pressure higher than a proper surface pressure for the chain;~~

a link-plate lay-out step of laying out the plurality of link plates at predetermined positions and in overlapping relation with respect to the thicknesswise direction thereof; and

an interconnection step of interconnecting the plurality of link plates located at the predetermined positions by inserting the pins through the through-holes.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A power transmission assembly comprising:

a first and a second pulley each possessing a pair of conical sheave surfaces opposing each other; and

the power transmission chain according to Claim 3 entrained between the first and second pulleys and contacting the sheave surfaces for power transmission.

11. (Previously Presented) A power transmission assembly comprising:

a first and a second pulley each possessing a pair of conical sheave surfaces opposing each other; and

the power transmission chain according to Claim 4 entrained between the first and second pulleys and contacting the sheave surfaces for power transmission.